



**OUR REDEEMER**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
GRAND PRAIRIE

*You are welcome here!*  
**We are disciples of Jesus, growing  
in Faith, Hope, and Love.**

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**Worship Times**

Sunday 10:15 am  
Wednesday 7:00 pm



**Pastor**

Rev. Julio Cruz-Natal



*May 5, 2021*  
*Worship with*  
*Holy Communion*

# Gathering

## ✠INTRODUCTION

*This Sunday's image of the life the risen Christ shares with us is the image of friendship. We are called to serve others as Jesus came to serve; but for John's gospel, the image of servanthood is too hierarchical, too distant, to capture the essence of life with Christ. Friendship captures the love, the joy, the deep mutuality of the relationship into which Christ invites us. The Greeks believed that true friends are willing to die for each other. This is the mutual love of Christian community commanded by Christ and enabled by the Spirit.*

## ✠THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

P Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

P Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ, let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We thank you, risen Christ, for these waters where you make us new, leading us from death to life, from tears to joy.

We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us in the grace-filled waters of rebirth, like rains to our thirsting earth, like streams that revive our souls, like cups of cool water shared with strangers.

Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear. Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness. Send us companions on our journey as we share your life.

Make us one, risen Christ. Cleanse our hearts. Shower us with life.

To you be given all praise, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

## ✠HYMN OF REFLECTION – Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee (ELW#836)

1 Joyful, joyful we adore thee,  
God of glory, Lord of love!  
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee,  
praising thee, their sun above.

Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,  
drive the gloom of doubt away.  
Giver of immortal gladness,  
fill us with the light of day.

2 All thy works with joy surround thee,  
earth and heav'n reflect thy rays,  
stars and angels sing around thee,  
center of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain,  
flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,  
chanting bird, and flowing fountain  
call us to rejoice in thee.

3 Thou art giving and forgiving,  
ever blessing, ever blest,  
wellspring of the joy of living,  
ocean-depth of happy rest!  
Thou our Father, Christ our brother,  
all who live in love are thine;  
teach us how to love each other,  
lift us to the joy divine!

## ✠PRAYER OF THE DAY

A Let us pray. O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

# Word

## ✠FIRST LESSON – 1 John 5:1-6

*God's children believe that Jesus is the Messiah and love God by keeping God's commandments. Thus the world is conquered not through military might but through love and faith.*

<sup>1</sup>Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. <sup>2</sup>By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. <sup>3</sup>For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, <sup>4</sup>for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. <sup>5</sup>Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

<sup>6</sup>This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

L The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## ✠ GOSPEL – John 15:9-17

*On the night of his arrest, Jesus delivers a final testimony to his disciples to help them in the days ahead. Here, he repeats the most important of all his commands, that they love one another.*

P The Holy Gospel, according to John, the fifteenth chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>9</sup>As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. <sup>10</sup>If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup>I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

<sup>12</sup>This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. <sup>14</sup>You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup>I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. <sup>16</sup>You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. <sup>17</sup>I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

P The gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## ✠ SERMON

### ✠ HYMN OF THE DAY – Abide, O Dearest Jesus (ELW #539) Vs. 1, 2, 4

- 1 Abide, O dearest Jesus,  
among us with your grace,  
that evil may not harm us  
nor we to sin give place.
- 2 Abide, O dear Redeemer,  
among us with your word  
and thus now and hereafter  
true peace and joy afford.
- 4 Abide with richest blessings  
among us, bounteous Lord;  
let us in grace and wisdom  
grow daily through your word.

## ✠ PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P During this Easter season, let us unite in Christ to pray for all in any need.

*A brief silence.*

P God of triune mystery, as you have formed your church to be one fruitful vine, strengthen our churches and our ecumenical connections with Christians across the street and around the globe. Lord, in your mercy,

**C Hear our prayer.**

P As you blessed Philip the evangelist, nurture our missionaries and theologians, our seminaries, our Sunday schools, and all adult discussions of the faith. Lord, in your mercy,

**C Hear our prayer.**

P As you brought the Ethiopian eunuch to baptism, lead all Christian communities to welcome people of each sexual identity, every skin color, and all national backgrounds. Lord, in your mercy,

**C Hear our prayer.**

P As you created an earth with countless forms of plant and animal life, train us to honor and maintain the bountiful earth that you intend for us and future generations. Lord, in your mercy,

**C Hear our prayer.**

P As you have provided food and drink for humankind, give to all persons wisdom in their use of wine, and strengthen recovering alcoholics in maintaining their sobriety. Lord, in your mercy,

**C Hear our prayer.**

P As you call humankind to live in love with one another, bring peace to nations, to neighborhoods, and to homes. Protect the oppressed and the vulnerable in every land, show us the path to nonviolence in all things. Lord, in your mercy,

**C Hear our prayer.**

P As you have promised to hear the cries of all the needy, listen now to the countless people around the world who are suffering from sickness, from the coronavirus, from injustice, from abuse, from starvation. Hear our pleas for India. We pray especially for those we name before you now, silently or aloud. . . . Lord, in your mercy,

**C Hear our prayer.**

P As you have sustained each of us in your love, receive now the silent petitions of our hearts. Lord, in your mercy,

**C Hear our prayer.**

P We remember those who have died in the faith, especially today Athanasius the theologian and those we name in our hearts. As you have promised to bring your people into your strong and tender embrace, preserve us until we enter with all the saints into your everlasting mercy. Lord, in your mercy,

**C Hear our prayer.**

P Into your hands, O living God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C Amen.**

## ✠PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you all.

**C And also with you.**

# Meal

## ✠GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

**C And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

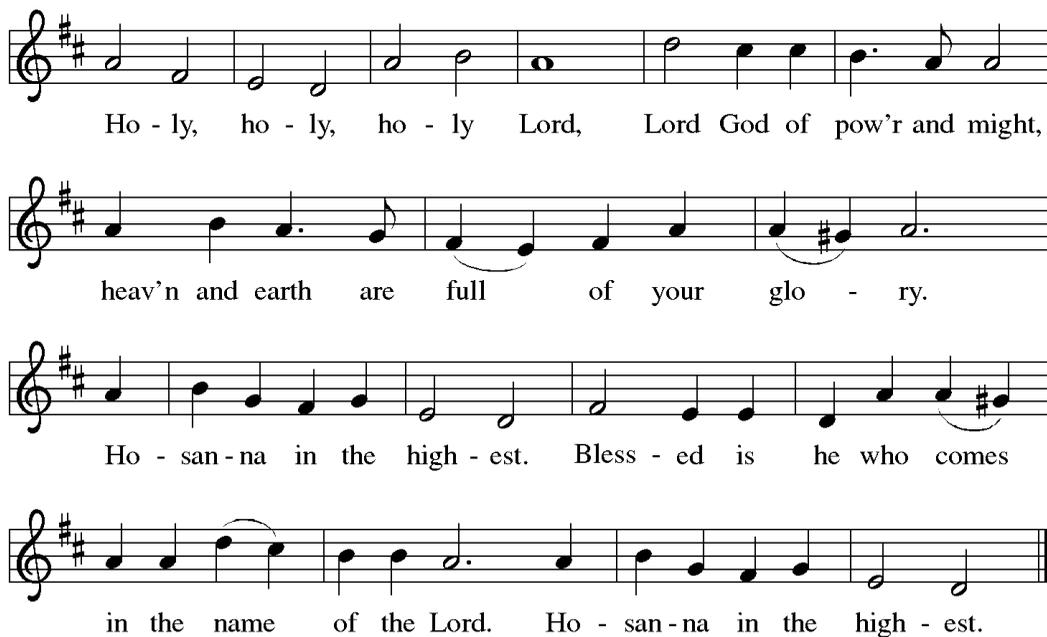
**C We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

✠**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (Setting 4, p. 153) See Next Page**



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
 Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
 in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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## ✠ Eucharistic Prayer

P Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,  
 heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
 In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,  
 who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,  
 who preached good news to the poor,  
 and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
 our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
 broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
 Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
 and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
 This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
 shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

## ✠ LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**C Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

## ✠ DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

### ✠ COMMUNION HYMN – Come, Let Us Eat (ELW #491)

- 1 Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread,  
come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread.  
Our Lord's body let us take together,  
our Lord's body let us take together.
- 2 Come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured,  
come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured.  
Jesus' blood poured let us drink together,  
Jesus' blood poured let us drink together.
- 3 In Jesus' presence now we meet and rest,  
in Jesus' presence now we meet and rest.  
In the presence of our Lord we gather,  
in the presence of our Lord we gather.
- 4 Rise, then, to spread abroad God's mighty word,  
rise, then, to spread abroad God's mighty word.  
Jesus risen will bring in the kingdom,  
Jesus risen will bring in the kingdom.

Text: Billema Kwillia, sts. 1-3; Gilbert E. Doan Jr., st. 4, alt.; tr. Margaret D. Miller, sts. 1-3, alt. Music: Billema Kwillia, adapt.

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## ✠ BLESSING

P May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom  
to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus.

The God of life,  
Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

## ✠ ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ✠ SENDING HYMN – Love Divine, All Loves Excelling (ELW #631)

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 Love divine, all loves excelling,<br>Joy of heav'n, to earth come down!<br>Fix in us thy humble dwelling,<br>all thy faithful mercies crown.<br>Jesus, thou art all compassion,<br>pure, unbounded love thou art;<br>visit us with thy salvation,<br>enter ev'ry trembling heart. | 3 Come, Almighty, to deliver;<br>let us all thy life receive;<br>suddenly return, and never,<br>nevermore thy temples leave.<br>Thee we would be always blessing,<br>serve thee as thy hosts above,<br>pray, and praise thee without ceasing,<br>glory in thy perfect love.          |
| 2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy loving Spirit<br>into ev'ry troubled breast;<br>let us all in thee inherit;<br>let us find thy promised rest.<br>Take away the love of sinning;<br>Alpha and Omega be;<br>end of faith, as its beginning,<br>set our hearts at liberty.                  | 4 Finish then thy new creation,<br>pure and spotless let us be;<br>let us see thy great salvation<br>perfectly restored in thee!<br>Changed from glory into glory,<br>till in heav'n we take our place,<br>till we cast our crowns before thee,<br>lost in wonder, love, and praise! |

## ✠ DISMISSAL

P Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

P Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

C **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

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